

History Special Topics Courses

Spring 2010

HIST 3540: HISTORY OF COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Kristen Haring, TR 11:00am

This course considers what happened when people started to communicate indirectly, using various devices, rather than simply talking to each other. We will examine the social, legal, and technical challenges of new ways of interacting. Drawing on examples from technologies such as the telephone, photography, telegraphy, and recorded music, the class will address issues including surveillance, privacy, trust, and capturing sound, ideas, and time. The course will culminate by discussing the World Wide Web.

HIST 3970-1: THE KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS

Dr. Mark Sheftall, MWF 12:00pm

This course examines the causes, development and consequences of U.S. military involvement in Korea and Vietnam, 1950–1975. The "lessons" and legacy of Korea and Vietnam continue to cast a long shadow over U.S. foreign policy and military doctrine, not to mention over American society and culture in general. Course topics include the political context of U.S. intervention, Korean and Vietnamese perspectives, guerilla warfare/counterinsurgency, the role of the media and US voters, and the "memory" of the wars in American culture.

HIST 3970-2: BOUND LABOR SYSTEMS

Dr. Boris Gorshkov, MWF 11:00am

Bound Labor surveys forms of bound labor through the history of slavery, serfdom, indenture, and other types of servitude. It offers a comparative and chronological perspective of the origins, development and decay of this type of labor. Topics include Ancient, medieval and early modern slavery; servitude in the Middle and early modern Ages; and bound labor in the modern world as well as the relationship between different religions and forms of bound labor.

HIST 3970-3: U.S. URBAN HISTORY

Dr. Reagan Grimsley, TR 2:00pm

This course traces the evolution of American urban areas and their suburbs from the colonial era to the present. Topics include: culture, economy, physical development/decline, social class, and technology. Utilizing a variety of sources including texts, maps, photographs, paintings, and film, the course will examine how the United States developed into a predominantly urban nation and how these changes impacted, and continues to shape, the lives of its citizens.

HIST 3970-4: NEW RELIGIONS IN EARLY AMERICA

Dr. Adam Jortner, MWF 11:00am

This course examines the development of religious communities and movements in the United States after the American Revolution. Why has the United States produced such a variety of novel religions? Why do some of these sects and "cults" succeed and some fail? How has the presence of small, innovative religious groups affected the history of the United States and the history of world religion? The course will particularly chart the history of Shakerism, Mormonism, Spiritualism, Pentecostalism, conjure, the New Age movement, and modern paganism, among others.

HIST 3970-5: THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICAN MEMORY

Dr. Kenneth Noe, TR 11:00am

The American Civil War remains a fascinating and sometimes controversial touchstone in the nation. This course will examine how Americans have remembered, interpreted, debated, and used the war from the end of the conflict to the present. Topics covered will include memorialization, classroom instruction, battlefield preservation, re-enacting, flag controversies, fiction and non-fiction literature, and film.

HIST 5970-1: MUSEUM STUDIES

Dr. Aaron Shapiro, MWF 10:00am

Students will be introduced to the history of museums and historic sites and the basic theory and practice of museums and museum work. Readings and course assignments will explore various aspects of museum studies and employment: collections, research, exhibition development, evaluation, interpretation, education, administration, fund-raising, staffing, and ethics. The course will examine the origins of the modern museum and explore the various challenges and opportunities—ethical, technological, interpretive, organizational, and financial—that museums face today.

HIST 5970-2: CRUSADE AND JIHAD IN HISTORY

Dr. Matt Malczykcki, TR 9:30am

This course will examine crusade and jihad from both Christian and Muslim perspectives. The emphasis will be on the period 1095–1291 CE, but due attention will be given to Christian and Muslim holy wars both before the Council Clermont and after the fall of Acre. No background in European, Middle Eastern, Christian, or Islamic history is necessary. All readings will be in English.

Got Questions? See History advisor Dr. Joseph Kicklighter in Thach 311 or at kicklja@auburn.edu